

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended): A method, in a server computer, for chaining applications, the method comprising:

storing in a properties file a service name that identifies a service associated with a chaining module and an option that associates the service name with a series of applications;

~~receiving, at a chaining module, a request from a requesting application for [[a]] the service and an option associated with the chaining module, wherein the option identifies the service by a service name;~~

~~receiving a parsing the properties file, wherein the properties file associates the service name with a to identify the series of applications and to determine a last application in the series of applications;~~

~~issuing activating the chaining module to issue a request from the chaining module to each application within the series of applications, in order, and passing to pass an output of each application to an input of the next application in the series until an output of [[a]] the last application in the series of applications is received by the chaining module, wherein the output of the last application in the series is a result of the service; and~~

responsive to receiving an output of the last application in the series of applications at the chaining module, returning the output of the last application to the requesting application as a result of the service to the requesting application.

22. (New): The method of claim 21, wherein a first application in the series of applications is a customer verification application

23. (New): The method of claim 22, wherein a second application in the series of applications is a natural language translation engine.

24. (New): The method of claim 21, wherein a first application in the series of applications is a first natural language translation engine that translates an input from a first natural language to a second natural language and wherein a second application in the series of applications is a second natural language translation engine that translates an input from the natural second language to a third natural language.

25. (New): An apparatus in a server computer comprising:

- a processor; and

- a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory has stored therein computer usable program code for chaining applications, wherein the computer usable program code is executable on the processor to:

- store in a properties file a service name that identifies a service associated with a chaining module and an option that associates the service name with a series of applications;

- receive a request from a requesting application for the service;

- parse the properties file to identify the series of applications and to determine a last application in the series of applications;

- activate the chaining module to issue a request to each application within the series of applications, in order, and to pass an output of each application to an input of the next application in the series until an output of the last application in the series of applications is received by the chaining module; and

- responsive to receiving an output of the last application in the series of applications at the chaining module, return the output of the last application to the requesting application as a result of the service.

26. (New): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein a first application in the series of applications is a customer verification application

27. (New): The apparatus of claim 26, wherein a second application in the series of applications is a natural language translation engine.

28. (New): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein a first application in the series of applications is a

first natural language translation engine that translates an input from a first natural language to a second natural language and wherein a second application in the series of applications is a second natural language translation engine that translates an input from the natural second language to a third natural language.

29. (New): A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer usable program code for chaining applications, the computer usable program code comprising:

computer usable program code for storing in a properties file a service name that identifies a service associated with a chaining module and an option that associates the service name with a series of applications;

computer usable program code for receiving a request from a requesting application for the service;

computer usable program code for parsing the properties file to identify the series of applications and to determine a last application in the series of applications;

computer usable program code for activating the chaining module to issue a request to each application within the series of applications, in order, and to pass an output of each application to an input of the next application in the series until an output of the last application in the series of applications is received by the chaining module; and

computer usable program code, responsive to receiving an output of the last application in the series of applications at the chaining module, for returning the output of the last application to the requesting application as a result of the service.

30. (New): The computer program product of claim 29, wherein a first application in the series of applications is a customer verification application

31. (New): The computer program product of claim 30, wherein a second application in the series of applications is a natural language translation engine.

32. (New): The computer program product of claim 29, wherein a first application in the series of applications is a first natural language translation engine that translates an input from a first natural language to a second natural language and wherein a second application in the series of applications is a second natural language translation engine that translates an input from the natural second language to a third natural language.